

## The Marble Hill Press.

Hill & Chandler, Publishers.

MARBLE HILL, MISSOURI

Following on his extraordinary action in prohibiting the use of electricity in theaters and the introduction of bicycles, the Sultan of Turkey has forbidden the use of balloons or carrier pigeons for army purposes. The reason is not stated, but his great respect for the use of balloons may have something to do with it.

John and Rachel Scott of Randolph county, West Virginia, and their children, have been weighed recently. The father and mother are still living in the house where their eight sons, whose combined weight is more than a ton, were born and raised. The combined weight of the family is 2,796 pounds, an average weight of 274.5 pounds.

In Germany a furnace has been invented intended for burning low-class fuels, such as lignite and peat and in which the combustion is intensified by turning into the fire the gaseous mixture obtained by the evaporation of liquid air. The nitrogen is first at free and the residue, containing at least 50 per cent of oxygen, is sent into the furnace.

A philanthropic Greek, who recently died at Corfu, has left a considerable sum to be applied to the purpose of a matronal lottery. Every year a certain number of poor girls of good conduct, will receive tickets entitling them to a chance of winning a sum sufficient for a marriage portion. The committee entrusted with the administration of the lottery is presided over by the Archbishop of Corfu, and the winning number is published in the papers. The fortunate candidate presents herself, and all inquiries being satisfactorily answered, the money is paid over.

Of interest to all students of Greek is the announcement from Athens that the "Clouds" of Aristophanes, paraphrased into modern Greek by the artist poet Souris, has been produced in the national theater in that city. Souris, who has been called for 30 years the "Modern Aristophanes," is said to have surpassed all expectations in his metrical rendering of the play. His work should be especially valuable to philologists as a basis of comparison between ancient and modern Greek, the language as it is written today being said to be closer to that of Xenophon and Plato than is the English of today to the English of Chaucer.

Mississippi may have another Helen Keller in the person of a little girl from Webster county, who arrived at the Deaf and Dumb institution about ten days ago. The child is Maud Scott, six years of age, and her parents live at Cataletta. She has been deaf and dumb from birth, and when she was about a month old she became blind. She is in charge of one teacher, who devotes nearly her whole time to her, and the child is beginning to give some remarkable signs of dawning intelligence and capacity to receive knowledge. The improvement is noticeable even for the time she has been there, and she is much less dependent now than she was when first brought to the institution.

The City Club of New York has issued two small pamphlets which are useful to New Yorkers and suggestive to residents of other cities. One is a brief index to the city charter, the other a brief summary, in chronological order, of the various events prescribed by the charter to occur during the year. It thus comprises a list of the official acts of the whole city government, and from it one can learn the precise duties of any and all officials. The ordinary citizen often realizes his ignorance of the local government, and his consequent inability either to fulfill his civic duties properly or to derive all the benefit he might from the operation of the government. These little pamphlets are designed to meet his need.

Chicago physicians have recently had the opportunity of examining several persons who were treated for consumption by the nitrogen compression method first promulgated by Dr. J. B. Murphy at the congress of physicians in Denver several years ago. The method consists in injecting nitrogen gas into the pleural cavity, the theory being that the pressure of the gas compresses the lung, enabling it to take a rest and permitting the unobstructed cure of any disease affecting it. Dr. Augustus Lemke, who presented the cases shown in Chicago, made the claim that he had effected a cure, but he said: "The symptoms of tuberculosis, which were pronounced in these cases when they applied for treatment, have all disappeared. The fever and coughing have ceased, and the patients have slept and eaten well. They have all gained in weight and show no evidence of disease."

During the recent trip of the Belgica in the Antarctic more than 60 observations of the aurora australis, the southern counterpart of our northern lights, were made. The appearance of the light resembled that presented in the Arctic regions. But the maximum frequency did not occur during the months of the long polar night, and the phenomenon was most intense at the time of the equinox, when the sun is perpendicular over the equator and daylight is simultaneous at both the North and the South Poles.

A scheme for building a railroad to the summit of Mont Blanc is being discussed at Geneva. The most favored plan is to start the line from Les Houches, on the Savoy side, whence it is eleven miles to the summit of the mountain. The plans provide for twelve stations, with every convenience for travelers. The trains will be propelled by electricity, which will be obtained by utilizing the river Arve. The author of the scheme, M. Fabre, a Frenchman, has submitted his plans to the French government.

During the past year the state of Pennsylvania has purchased more than 100,000 acres of land to be used as a forestry reservation. The policy of using land that is not adapted to agriculture for the purpose of timber culture has been adopted by both Pennsylvania and New York.

Lord Salisbury has never been known in the Peers' Gallery in the house of commons, and Mr. Gladstone, though he was in parliament for sixty years, was never seen in the smoking room.

## In the Fowler's Snare

By M. B. MAXWELL

### CHAPTER IX.—(Continued.)

Looking on, thankful for his wife's temporary brightness, was Gervais, too much encumbered by his robes of icicles and snow to join the dancers, and holding his hand was little, misshapen Syb—she, too, perforce, being a spectator and never an actor in the merry games of life.

"It's a pretty sight, isn't it, little Syb?" heartily said Gervais, determined in his honest, manly fashion to be proud of the wife he had won.

Gladly, light as a spring, was darting up and down in the old-fashioned dance, and every eye was fixed upon her dainty figure, in its dress of silvery-brocade. She, too, had blood-red berries fastened in the folds of her wedding gown and a great bunch on her left shoulder.

"If Leila had on a dress of silver brocade, and diamonds on her neck, she would look a thousand times prettier than this girl!" was Syb's harsh reply, as she glowered at the shining little figure dancing up and down the middle.

Before the startled Gervais could collect himself to reply a disagreeable, low laugh made both Syb and her turn quickly. Temple-Dene was liberty hall, and the scientist had again shut himself up in his room all day, deep in some abstruse calculations, doubtless. But the music and laughter had drawn the hermit from his cell, and he stood close behind them, with a strange, mocking smile on his thin lips.

"Little missy has distinct powers of discrimination, evidently," Paul Ansell said, biting his black eyes full at the frowning face of the deformed child. At the same time he lifted his right hand, but, on second thought, dropped it at his side furtively.

"You ought to have been among the merry dancers, Ansell," said Gervais, a little puzzled by his new friend. "The dancing is the best of the evening, isn't it?" "Why do you know what you are saying? The merry dancers are the famous northern lights, and we folk across the herring pond have a superstition that they are never seen save before some terrible calamity."

While Paul was speaking his gaze grew more intent, and his dark eyes seemed to be drawing out the soul of the deformed child. The frown had faded from her uplifted face and in its stead an expectant look leaped. It was as though she were saying dumbly:

"I am ready! What would you have with me, my master?" Gervais, whose eyes wandered back to the quaint old dance had lost the byplay, "If the merry dancers are to bring a calamity, it must be upon yourself, Ansell, seeing we have no such superstition among us that I know of." And he moved off, with a train of clamorous children at his heels.

The dance was over, and laughing, chattering and fluttering, the dancers, old and young, gathered around Lady Jane, who, determined to have a variety of entertainment at her Christmas party, was urging a shrinking, shy boy to recite "The Mistletoe Bough."

You know, Bobby, you can do it so beautifully, and Mrs. Templeton would like to hear it so much!" Bobby Vane was the big brother from Eton of the small lipser in blue velvet who clung to Gladly's skirts when he could.

Bobby was a born reciter, but, unfortunately, his recitation was a little flat. However, at last, calmed, hustled and goaded, the boy, with his ears pink and his knees knocking together—for he had never faced so large an audience—rushed at his task.

After the first line Bobby felt his feet. His voice was good, clear, sweet and round as a bell; it showed no hint of breaking as yet.

The gay company, breathless and intent, closed round the youthful reciter, the old legend in verse fell in clear, dropping syllables from his lips: The mistletoe hung in the castle hall, And the holly-branch shone on the old oak wall.

And the baron's retainers were blithe and gay, As the poem went on all were forcibly impressed by the curious similarity of their present surroundings to those detailed by the reciter.

The old world ballroom, with its dark oak rafters, its rows of glittering armor—for Temple-Dene was noted for its armor—the "goodly company" of gallants and fair dames, the merry children, the old paneled walls blushing red with lavish wealth of scarlet holly berries; while here and there, and everywhere, in the most unexpected places, large bunches of mistletoe hung to tempt and entrap the unwary.

And above all, there was the chief feature, the bride. The star of that goodly company. "I think we ought to carry it out to the letter!" excitedly cried Gladly, when the recitation was over, and the deafening applause came shame-faced Bobby to flee for shelter behind a suit of shining armor.

"A dear, wild child, this new daughter of mine," blantly said Lady Jane to her dowerer cronies, as Gladly sped through the hall to the distant staircase.

If Gladly had not been the great American heiress she was, her escapade would have been promptly frowned down, they knew very well.

Upstairs, in the gallery that ran round the hall, Paul Ansell was pacing up and down, with folded arms and deeply frowning brow.

Tonight meant for this man other things than it did for the merry-makers below. The crucial moment had come when he was about to stake his all. Either he was to be in a position to grasp a fortune, or he would find himself in a prison cell. That he knew.

As he paced along the gallery a light footstep came behind him. So light was its pattering that Paul did not hear it.

"You?" As he turned he faced a little figure in gleaming silver robes with patches of crimson here and there—blood-red berries—and at her throat a dazle of diamonds.

It was Gladly, on tiptoe. "I have come to hide-to hide!" Her voice abruptly died away, for Paul Ansell's eyes held her. Her whole figure dropped, the joyousness died out of her small face, and her eyes grew large and dilated as they gazed

back, almost glued to those of the scientist.

Motionless, immovable, she waited while he drew nearer to her. There was for her the fascination of the victim for the rattle-snake.

And while the two-master and tool came closer and closer, there came floating up from below the sounds of music and revelry and gay laughter.

The dancing had begun again, and there was a flash of changing color as the couples whirled round.

In the gallery a strange silence reigned. One little watcher, hidden close behind a bank of ferns and festoons of holly berries, could hear her own heart-beats.

It was Syb, the deformed girl, who had stolen away from the throng of merry-makers an hour since.

Something strange and uncanny had befallen Syb, some inscrutable influence held her prisoner. Her will was chained up, she was powerless to come and go as she would.

But only so far was she dominated. Every other sense she had was alert. And she watched with wonderment the bride, whom she hated for standing in the place that should have been Leila's, droop visibly before the slowly waving hands of Paul Ansell, the scientist.

The strain not to lose anything in the strange scene being endured before her was too much for Syb even to wonder why the long, lean hands went up and down, up and down, slowly and methodically.

The gay music from below rose and fell, between its bursts Syb's sharp, young ears caught the hissed out command as Paul Ansell bent over the little crouching figure in silver brocade.

"Go! Do my will!" With a faint, almost inarticulate cry Gladly straightened herself, and, turning, went slowly along the gallery. Paul Ansell's eyes followed her until she disappeared on the opposite side.

The music below ceased with a crash of chords, the dance was over, and in the hall Syb heard a sharp click.

So did Paul Ansell, for he quickly lifted his head, and a gray pallor crept over his face.

Then he hurried away in the direction of the bachelors' wing, where he had been located on his arrival. "I hate him, too!" irritably said Syb. In truth, the poor, misshapen girl hated most people.

As if some baleful thing had departed, she rose and shook herself. The holly had scratched her thin, bare arms, and there was a trickle of red that dropped on her white muslin frock.

"Light! It's all horrid!" she shuddered impatiently. "I wish Leila and I could run away from it all, and live in a cottage by ourselves!" she murmured, as she went wandering round the horse-shoe gallery.

For to this afflicted child all the music and brightness and Christmas joy in the hall below was gall and wormwood.

### CHAPTER X.

Even the maddest, merriest of revellers must grow weary. The Christmas merrymakers flagged, the gay music dragged a little slowly; here and there a tired child-guest yawned in a corner, then nodded, and finally was carried away in a deep sleep.

Outside, under the stars, a long line of carriages waited, and the hostess, with tired eyes, wondered why people did not go.

It had been a fatiguing day for Lady Jane and for Leila, who had not spared herself in helping. She and Lady Jane, side by side, ran the gauntlet of the interminable good-byes from exhausted but delighted guests.

The Christmas gathering had been the greatest success the country had known for years, and Lady Jane was excited by the flatteries and thanks of the departing guests.

"Where's your wife, dear? She ought to have been here to see the guests off."

Lady Jane laid her hand on her son's arm. She was in her third state, ready to be cross even with the best.

"Gladly? I'm sure I don't know, mother dear."

Gervais yawned. He was pining to get off his Santa Claus trappings, and to have a quiet life by himself.

A quarter of an hour later nearly every soul under the Temple-Dene roof was echoing Lady Jane's question.

Where was the bride? Not in her own room, not in the hot, deserted ballroom; she was not in the upper gallery, where the lights were already being put out.

All sense of fatigue was put to flight by a vague terror of some evil hanging over the house of Temple-Dene.

Under the ancient roof only two persons did not share the terrified excitement when it was discovered that Mrs. Gervais Templeton was nowhere to be found—its master and the American guest.

Gervais himself was petrified. He had brought all his strength of will to bear on nobly doing his duty to the woman he had won for his wife. No one but he would ever know how hard the fight had been.

And now it was all in vain, for Gladly had gone—where, no one knew. Since the journey on the Canadian Pacific railway, over the snow-covered prairies, Gladly had been a bewildering puzzle to her husband. Her vagaries had made him secretly wonder at times if he had married a lunatic.

Then again a great fear would loom up that his wife had inherited some terrible wasting disease, and was about to slip through his fingers and out of life itself.

made it startlingly like that of his mother. Lady Jane, worn out and spent, crouched down beside the great yule-log, that crackled and roared, the only cheery thing around.

She and Gervais gazed blankly at each other. What had they done, the two were asking one another silently, that this disgrace should have come to shame them?

"Can anybody tell me who saw or spoke with my wife last?" There was a catch in the young husband's voice as he put the question to the circle of anxious-eyed searchers round him.

"She said she was going to hide. Don't you remember?" Bobby Vane, who had recited, craned his neck forward to say.

Then everybody did remember what they had forgotten—Gladly's wild proposal to enrage the bride in the "Mistletoe Bough," and a gasp of relief came.

"Why, she's in the house somewhere, safe and sound, laughing in her sleeve at us all; and we've been for the last hour tearing our clothes and the skin off our hands in that thicket of holly-bushes round the pond!"

"Let's go all over the house again," suggested somebody else.

"Perhaps she's crept inside the suits of armor," suggested Bobby, with protruding eyes. What a tale it chanced up, she was powerless to come and go as she would.

Another hour was spent in search, but all fruitlessly.

### (To be Continued.)

### MORE PLAY NEEDED.

Increasing Number of Poorly Developed Men and Women.

It used to be that boys and men who worked had shorter working hours and less work to do in the same time than do the men and boys of today.

Consequently they had better opportunities and greater inclination for recreation of the healthiest kind. They felt able to rise in the morning early and do their work with a vigor and energy that is rarely seen today.

As to make them feel they needed every moment of sleep possible, as is often the case nowadays, and in the late afternoon and evenings they could enjoy an athletic game.

The girls some years ago exerted much less than they do now, their course of study usually being mild in comparison to the average of today, and few of them were in business or the professions. Therefore their need was less for strengthening exercises.

Although the mental and physical work that the men and women of this generation do has greatly increased they do not seem to have realized that a counteracting force is absolutely necessary for the number is growing larger every day. We cannot help observing it on the streets and everywhere—of men and women who slouch along with drooping figure and dragging steps, the picture of undeveloped physical manhood and womanhood.

There is nothing more pleasant to look upon than a strong, graceful young man or woman, and the last two qualities depend on the first and all three on physical exercise and development. Therefore, you know what you must do to be happy and attractive, and it is your duty to be all three. You can, of course, in varying degrees, do something useful to do to "earn his night's" repose. He is more active and busy when at his work than most men who are 40 years his junior. He still retains possession of

### GAME KILLING.

Denver Times Says Danger in Allowing Indians to Kill.

There is a curious disposition among the people to make sport of Gov. Thomas' crusade against the Indians who are said to be killing game outside their reservation and within the boundaries of this state. That it has a comic side is probably not to be denied. But it may also have a very serious side.

The border country has been the scene of many Indian experiences of late, and the American people show an astonishing facility in forgetting an astonishing thing. Those who know anything about the Indian know that the kind of movement now begun may very easily incite him to acts which will have a very serious significance to our settlers and possibly small villages.

The Indians know as well as Gov. Thomas does that the federal power is not behind this movement. They rarely follow a chance for immediate revenge because of the possibility of a remote reprisal. That the state can prevail in the end nobody doubts, perhaps, but aside from the harvest of trouble and loss of life we may have to reap, it is not looking to the harvest of debt that must follow, though we are now at our wits' end to devise means for paying what we already owe. Some of them are inclined to suspect the governor of a kind of "after us, the deluge" policy. —Denver Times.

### TOO EXTRAVAGANT.

A Defaulting Cashier Has Boiled in Champagne.

The manner in which one defaulting cashier was detected was rather peculiar, says the Louisville Times. It was due to the curiosity of the women of his neighborhood. He went to expense in the way of dressing, they never heard of his gambling or drinking to any extent, he was a model husband, but he loved a good table. There was nothing unusual in this, but one day when the ladies of the vicinity were discussing the best methods of cooking meats the wife of the cashier declared very innocently that her husband doted on ham, but he would not eat it unless it had been boiled in champagne. "Boiled in champagne!" exclaimed the listeners. "Heaven's sake, how expensive; we couldn't afford to have him eat our table off if we gave him that way!" It was soon looked all around the neighborhood that Cashier Blank was a high liver, indeed, and the men began telling of his unlifted ideas of cookery. This soon reached the ears of the directors of the bank, and they concluded it might be wise to investigate the accounts of such an epicure. Plain water was all they could afford for their ham, so the champagne lover was called up and subsequently relegated to the pen, where he had to forego his pet dish for many a weary day.

### Battle in an Asylum.

A singular battle was witnessed recently in an English asylum. A hive of bees was besieged by a large swarm of wasps. The bees made valiant sorties to try to drive away their besiegers and the wasps made furious assaults to drive out the bees. The battle raged for two days, at the end of which time the bees evacuated the hive and the wasps took possession.

Sum mense months never cease to nap until there good fortune is a wile

## A Century's Progress

1801 In January, 1801, the Indian canoe was practically the only floating vehicle on the great lakes, which holds one-third of all the fresh water in the world. Today the lake fleet numbers several thousand steel steamers, with seventy shipyards on the shores of the lakes to add constantly to the number.

In January, 1801, there were in the world less than 50 shipbuilding yards. Today there are more than seven hundred shipbuilding yards, turning out a total of 1,000 vessels yearly.

The first iron war vessel built in the world was the United States steamship Michigan, which is still in duty on the great lakes.

The total value of the agricultural products of the United States in 1800 was \$100,000,000. In 1900 it will be approximately \$3,000,000,000, while the farms of the country are worth five times as much.

One hundred years ago it took a month to cross the Atlantic. Now the trip is made between two Sundays.

In January, 1801, there were 903 postoffices in the United States and 1,875 miles of postal routes. In 1889 there were 75,000 postoffices and 497,000 miles of postal routes.

In January, 1801, it cost twenty-five cents to send a single sheet by mail a distance of 400 miles. Today a letter containing several sheets may go as many thousand miles for two cents.

In January, 1801, the total exports of the United States were \$31,000,000. This year they are \$2,000,000,000.

In January, 1801, there was not a cooking stove in the United States. Now we are beginning to cook without fire by the aid of electricity.

Within the century the population of the world has doubled. The population of the United States has been multiplied by fourteen.

The first practicable steamboat was built in 1802, and the first railway locomotive in 1804.

In January, 1801, a man could travel only by coach or on horseback. Today there are more than 250,000 miles of railroad track in the United States alone, being more than six times the mileage of any other country.

In 1848 it cost forty cents to send a letter from New York to San Francisco.

In January, 1801, there were not more than thirty colleges and other institutions of higher education in the United States. At the close of last year there were 480, with a total of 12,000 professors and teachers.

Peter Surprise is the most aged man in Indiana and one of the oldest in the country. With the coming of the new year his life covered the nineteenth century, and dipped into the eighteenth.

He came to what is now Lake county, Indiana, eighty years ago, and he has lived there ever since. He was born in lower Canada in 1792.

Mr. Surprise is a most industrious worker. Scarcely a day passes that he does not find something useful to do to "earn his night's" repose. He is more active and busy when at his work than most men who are 40 years his junior. He still retains possession of

home she bought new clothing, of which she had great need. On reaching New York the customs officers seized her trunks because the clothing bought abroad which they contained was worth more than \$100. The authorities at Washington were appealed to and they ordered the release of the property. The order sent to the collector at New York notified him that the treasury regulations provide for the free entry of the personal effects of United States ministers and their families returning from abroad, and that Mr. Condit-Smith was a guest of Minister Conger the privilege of free entry of personal effects should be accorded to her.

A few New York dressmakers may feel indignant because the law was not enforced against Miss Condit-Smith. Nobody else will be. The feeling with which it is better not to have a gives little protection to American labor, except a few milliners and dressmakers, which enables rough custom-house officers to exercise their authority most offensively, and which is not suspended in certain instances by treasury regulations.

A Daring British Official. William St. John Brodric, who has caused a tremendous sensation in London by resigning the Cuvillie case, thus threatening to expose other scandals of the Boer war, has but recently entered upon his duties as British war minister.

In 1885 Mr. Brodric was appointed to his first post of prominence, that of under secretary for war. Three years ago he was raised to the privy council and appointed to the post of under secretary for foreign affairs. On the reorganization of the cabinet during the last fall he was raised to the office of war secretary in place of Lord Lansdowne, who was transferred to the portfolio of foreign affairs. Mr. Brodric is a young man, but evidently a determined one.

The Condit-Smith Case. Miss Condit-Smith, an American woman, was in Pekin at the time of the siege of the legations. On her way

quitate with the new title of Ava added to his old one of Dufferin. In 1885 he became ambassador to Rome and in 1891 he was transferred to Paris.

The marquis of Dufferin and Ava, chairman of the London and Globe finance corporation, which started the present crash in London banking circles, is 74 years old, and he has lived of the best Irish blood on both sides of his house. On one side—his father's—his ancestors have been proud of their Irish birth for ten generations. His great-grandfather was Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Dufferin, in spite of his many high-sounding titles, is a great man. To run over his record in the service of Britain as an ambassador and agent would be to write much of the history of England and its empire for the last part of half a century.

In 1871 he was created a British earl. Then came, in 1872, his appointment as governor general of Canada, which he held for six years. Then back he went into diplomacy as ambassador to St. Petersburg, 1879-81, and ambassador to Constantinople, 1881-4, with a special mission to Cairo in 1882. In 1884 he became viceroy of India, and during his administration annexed Burma, and won for himself a mar-

quisade with the new title of Ava added to his old one of Dufferin. In 1885 he became ambassador to Rome and in 1891 he was transferred to Paris.

quitate with the new title of Ava added to his old one of Dufferin. In 1885 he became ambassador to Rome and in 1891 he was transferred to Paris.

## SAYINGS and DOINGS

Would Signal to Mars. Professor Flammarion does not believe the people of the planet Mars are trying to signal the earth. The luminous points observed by Professor Douglas, he says, are due to sunlight effects on the clouds of the earth's neighbor in space. Flammarion suggests that a good way to attract the attention of the Martians would be to arrange great lights at Bordeaux, Marseilles, Strasbourg, Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Stockholm. These lights would reproduce an outline of luminous points the same in arrangement as the constellation of the Great Bear, or Big Dipper, in the northern sky. The Martians seeing this might respond with another such figure, and this communication would be set up between the intelligent being in the two planets. Professor Flammarion is the most enthusiastic of the astronomers who are interested in Mars. He firmly believes that the planet is in-

habited by creatures superior to men, and his writings in the subject are full of thrilling interest.

The Embellishments in 1900. Although the embellishments of 1900 show a decided increase over those of 1899, it is to be considered that the total of last year was the smallest in 23 years. The figures for 1900 are \$4,021,341, as compared with \$2,183,373 in 1899, an increase of \$1,837,968. Large as this sum appears, it is far below the average of the last 23 years, which is \$7,339,806.

The losses for the year are distributed as follows: Stolen by public officials, \$1,182,678; from banks, \$1,857,761; by agents, \$271,878; forgeries, \$156,900; from loan associations, \$125,100; by postoffice employees, \$24,427; miscellaneous stealings, \$852,390. Bank employees have the unenviable reputation of heading the black list and more than three-fourths of the bank total was taken by six employees, in Newport (Ky.), Fort Worth (Tex.), Elizabethport (N. J.), Buffalo (N. Y.), Rutland (Vt.), and New York city banks, under conditions which would not have existed had the embellishments been under proper surveillance and the banks been conducted upon safe business methods.

There is nothing discouraging in the increase for the year, however, as it is still far below the average. The comparatively small sums embellished are an evidence of the general prosperity of the country. In 1883-84 the totals were \$26,504,000 and in 1893-94 \$55,262,714, and these were hard times years.

Premier of Australia. Edmund Barton, the statesman who has accepted the work of organizing the first federal government of Australia, was the leader of the movement which resulted in the federal constitution. He has been long a prominent man in Australian politics. He is a native of Sydney, 51 years old, and for many years has been an able lawyer. Among the men who early ad Edmund Barton, vated the necessity of federation of the Australian colonies, Mr. Barton was conspicuous. He has been not unjustly styled the father of the new commonwealth.

The New Railroad Policy. The total railway mileage of the United States is 190,000 miles. Of that over 45,000 miles is owned by roads whose policy is controlled at this time by J. Pierpont Morgan by virtue of his own holdings and the confidence reposed in him by English bondholders and by certain Americans who are large holders of railway securities.

Mr. E. H. Harriman and his associates control railroad systems, chiefly west of the Mississippi, which have a mileage of over 24,700 miles. There are roads which are not subject to the control of either of these railway kings, but whose managers approve of their policy. The Pennsylvania and Santa Fe are the more important of these outside roads.

A Capital Find. Congressman Roberts, in connection with his work as a committee man, recently discovered a forgotten room in the capital back of statutory hall. It is an agreeable companion, an excellent man, and a good fellow. He wrote a book entitled "Charles Dickens as I Knew Him," which Dickens considered "the best and truest picture of his father yet written."

Boar Discovers Antifreeze. The pig is so fond of trifles that it is employed in many parts of France to unearth these valuable subterranean growing fungi. Near Aurillac, in the department of Cantal, an old boar, while thus engaged, discovered the famous antimony deposit, which has since been mined by the state. Similarly, the existence of the Kimberley diamond fields is said to have been first revealed to a Boer farmer by an inquisitive sow; and, centuries ago, the Spaniards stumbled in a like manner upon the silver mines of Potosi. This latter fortunate incident, fortunately, is for the Spaniards, but disastrous to the Indians—is commemorated by a silver pig with jeweled eyes, which is preserved to this day in the cathedral of La Paz.—Answers.

Belongs to Husband's Family. From the time of her betrothal a Chinese girl belongs to the family of her prospective husband, and often when her prospective husband is poor or feels unable to afford keeping her, she is even while a mere child to her husband's family to be raised by them. Even when she stays at home she wor